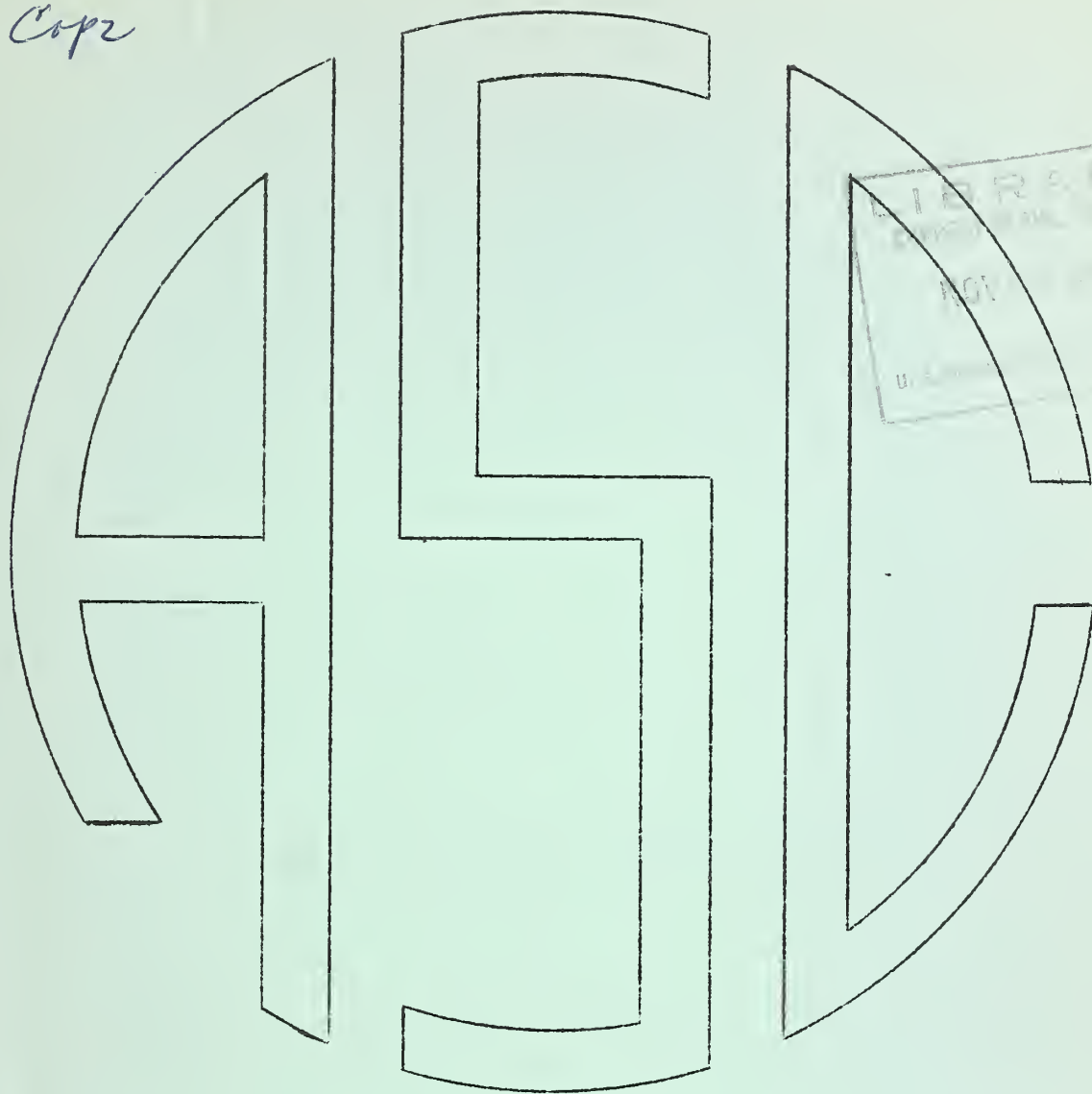


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REPORT OF  
1957 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
April 11 - 12, 1957  
Burlington, Vermont



## REPORT OF ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

Vermont State and County Committeemen, County Office Managers  
County Agents, and Guests

Held at Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont - April 11 - 12, 1957

### Foreword

This report presents the talks and committee reports of the 1957 Annual ASC Conference. Through the use of three working committees, those attending the two-day conference considered the farmer thinking in the State as reported at the recent county program planning meetings. Their recommendations will serve as a guide for the program of work of the Vermont Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office during the coming months.

The recommendations included in this report are those which were approved by the entire conference. The recommendations relating to the 1958 ACP were reviewed and considered by the Vermont State ASC Committee, in a joint meeting with other agricultural agency representatives at the State level, and were the basis of the State Committee's recommendations to the Washington Office.

The State Committee, at this same joint meeting, also reviewed the conference recommendations in connection with the Conservation Reserve Program and passed these recommendations along to the Washington Office in an attempt to modify this program so that it will better fit Vermont conditions and needs.

It was a pleasure to have Clarence L. Miller, Associate Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service, as our guest speaker at the banquet. Other honored guests included Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Robert T. Stafford.

We appreciate very much the efforts and wholehearted cooperation of all who helped in any way to make our 1957 ASC Conference a success.

### State ASC Committee

B. Frank Myott, Chairman  
Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Vice Chairman  
Edson E. Gifford, Member  
Robert P. Davison, Ex Officio

### State ASC Office

A. F. Heald, Administrative Officer  
E. N. Blondin, Fieldman  
C. B. Doane, Fieldman

## CONFERENCE THEME

### PLANNING AND ADMINISTERING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

Times change, and so do the need and objective of farm programs. Currently, we are faced with the problem of temporary surpluses. We have a very important part in the development and administration of agricultural programs which can make our country a better one in which to live.

As committeemen, let's look at the tools we are given.

Let's think of the money as our own and plan wisely for its use.

Let's make recommendations which are "Vermont Sound."

Let's make this one of the best working conferences ever.

We must all contribute if we are to do the job well.

PROGRAM

ANNUAL STATE ASC CONFERENCE

April 11 and 12, 1957

HOTEL VERMONT, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

First Day

9:00 a.m. Register, get name tags and banquet  
to tickets at Conference Registration  
10:00 a.m. Desk in Lobby

Conference Opened by Charles L. Winslow, Sr. Presiding

10:00 a.m.	Conference Goals Introduction of Visitors and Delegates	B. Frank Myott, Chairman State ASC Committee
10:15 a.m.	How to Make the Soil Bank Work in New England  Questions and Discussion	Thomas Hamilton, Deputy Director, Conservation Reserve, Soil Bank Div., CSS
11:15 a.m.	Making ACP Click  Questions and Discussion	Roland Crumpler, Director, Cons. Programs Div., ACPS
12:15 p.m.	Committee Assignments	Charles L. Winslow, Sr. State Committeeman
	A. Program Planning Committee	Roof Garden
	B. Soil Bank Committee	Apple Orchard
	C. Administrative Problems Committee	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m.	Conference Committee Meetings to	
5:00 p.m.		

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BANQUET

April 11, 1957

6:30 p.m.

Main Dining Room

Toastmaster - Hugh E. Evans, State Committee Alumnus

PROGRAM

The Barrettes

Recognitions

The Barrettes

Speaker - Clarence Miller, Assoc. Administrator, CSS

Second Day

Edson E. Gifford, Presiding

9:00 a.m.	The Farm Labor Situation	Merrill Walker, State Farm Placement Supervisor, Employment Service
9:30 a.m.	Status of Selective Service	Merton Ashton, Deputy Director, Selective Ser- vice System
10:00 a.m.	ACP, Soil Bank, and Forestry	A. W. Gottlieb, State Forester, and Ray Foulds, Extension Forester
	Discussion	
11:00 a.m.	Forestry Practices from the Farmer's Standpoint	Edson E. Gifford, State Committeeman
11:30 a.m.	ASC Work and the Extension Service	R. P. Davison, Acting Director of Extension
12:00 noon	Lunch	



Second Day (Continued)

B. Frank Myott, Presiding

1:00 p.m.	The Challenge to Committeemen	Harris W. Soule, Northeast Area Director, CSS
1:30 p.m.	Report of Program Planning Committee	Charles L. Winslow, Sr. Chairman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
	Report of Soil Bank Committee	B. Frank Myott Chairman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
	Report of Administrative Problems Committee	Edson E. Gifford Chairman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
3:30 p.m.	State Committee Nominations	Charles L. Winslow, Sr. State Committeeman
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Conference Committee Assignments

I. PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Chairman

Glenn Webster, Vice Chairman

Almon F. Heald, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS FROM</u>
Addison	Wayne Fuller	
Bennington	E. W. Mattison	
Caledonia	Norman Lowe	Caledonia County
Chittenden	Raymond Rowley	
Essex	C. E. Wright	
Franklin	Roland Gervais	Franklin County
Grand Isle	Alan Kinney	
Lamoille	Arthur Stancliff	
Orange	Glenn Webster	Orange County
Orleans	Robert Kilborn	
Rutland	Roy Burroughs	
Washington	D. Drew Bisbee	Washington County
Windham	Robert Gaines	
Windsor	Raymond Farrar	

## II. SOIL BANK COMMITTEE

B. Frank Myott, Chairman

F. Milo Leighton, Vice Chairman

Charles B. Doane, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS FROM</u>
Addison	Sedgewick Preston	Addison County
Bennington	Ball Lyons	
Caledonia	Donald Larocque	
Chittenden	G. N. Baldwin	Chittenden County
Essex	Elden Hartshorn	
Franklin	Stuart Newton	
Grand Isle	Jay Haylett	Grand Isle County
Lamoille	Ray Perkins	
Orange	F. Milo Leighton	
Orleans	Henry Dagesse	Orleans County
Rutland	George Ridlon	
Washington	W. J. Bisson	
Wincham	Arthur Bensenhaver	Windham County
Windsor	Matthew Watson	

III. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS COMMITTEE

Edson E. Gifford, Chairman

Howard Foster, Vice Chairman

Edward N. Blondin, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS FROM</u>
Addison	Howard Foster	
Bennington	Clyde Bryant	Bennington County
Caledonia	Clarence Burrington	
Chittenden	Ray Collins	
Essex	Ray French	Essex County
Franklin	Floyd Weld	
Grand Isle	Charles Waddington	
Lamoille	Howard Kittell	Lamoille County
Orange	Walter Wheatley	
Orleans	Reginald LeBlanc	
Rutland	James Brayton	Rutland County
Washington	Everett Walbridge	
Wincham	Myron Allen	
Windsor	Wesley Young	Windsor County

## CONFERENCE GOALS

Introduction of Visitors and Delegates  
by  
B. Frank Myott, Chairman, Vermont State ASC Committee  
at the  
Annual ASC Conference, Hotel Vermont  
Burlington, Vermont -- April 11, 1957

I am glad of this opportunity to outline to you folks the plans and purpose of our 1957 Annual ASC Conference. As our program points out, we are meeting to discuss "Planning and Administering Agricultural Programs." This meeting follows up the meetings we have had in each Vermont county to get recommendations from our community committeemen as to the kind of an Agricultural Conservation Program and Conservation Reserve Program they want for Vermont. At these same meetings we took time to explain to our committeemen the over-all job of ASC committeemen in this State. We got some ideas from them, too. So today and tomorrow we will take their ideas, together with the ideas of the county committeemen and technical people, and try to make plans for doing a better job in the coming year.

As I see our goals at this annual conference, we should very carefully review the work given us as State and county committeemen. We should take a look at what has been done and try to improve the way we carry out our assignments in the future.

I have been a farmer committeeman working with this program for many years. I am proud of our accomplishments and hope you are. I believe this farmer committee system is sound and can operate efficiently.

Now a few words to committee members.

### For you who are serving on the ACP Program Planning Committee

I hope that you will take a good look at some of the changes that have been brought about, starting with the 1954 program. Make use of the changes that are good, and make recommendations to change those that are not working. Give a lot of weight to the recommendations from your community committeemen, because remember you are representing them and the farmers of your area at this meeting.

### A few words to the Administrative Problems Committee

You should take a good look at the way our county offices are being run, the details of operating the ACP, and analyze our election procedure and your own county committee meetings, make suggestions for better supervision, and give us ideas on how our State Office people can be more helpful. You should also take a good look at our assignments, such as CCC activities and the Wool Program. Make recommendations on ways and means of keeping our committeemen better informed on these programs.

To the members of the Soil Bank Committee

This Soil Bank Program is an experiment. We have tried it out just one year. You should take a thorough look at how the Conservation Reserve part of it may be adapted to our State. You must in your deliberations keep in mind the goal of the program to reduce production and at the same time conserve for the future. We want your recommendations on rental rates and on necessary changes in practices and regulations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as we continue through these two days of conference, give us the best ideas you have and our program is sure to be a success.



## HOW TO MAKE THE SOIL BANK WORK IN NEW ENGLAND

Address by Thomas Hamilton, Deputy Director,  
Conservation Reserve, Soil Bank Division, CSS  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 11, 1957

I appreciate the opportunity this morning to discuss with you for a few minutes some of the aspects of the Soil Bank Program, so that you may make your own determination on the part it may play in future Vermont agricultural development.

In an agricultural State such as yours a large number of your residents have a stake in this new and highly important attempt at bringing into balance our agricultural producing plant and the market needs for farm products.

The immediate objective of this huge program is to quickly reduce the size of our agricultural producing plant now at approximately 400 million cropland acres. By so doing it is hoped that it will reduce the flow of surplus commodities to Government and non-Government storage. In addition to reducing crop acres, incentives are set up under the Conservation Reserve part of the Soil Bank for the shifting to other uses of some of the less productive of our present cropland. By so doing they will be better utilized and still be banked for the time when we may have urgent need to again top their full productive capacity.

I would like to emphasize that the Soil Bank is only one phase of the attempt to bring our surplus to a manageable level. Great progress has been made on the export effort, especially with such commodities as wheat and cotton. Total export business of agricultural commodities shows an increase of 17% during the past year. Our population also continues to grow at unprecedented rates. These are hopeful signs for a better day in agriculture; however, our productive capacity and output has been growing at a greater rate than our population.

Enormous progress has been made in agriculture during the past 15 years. The war effort gave great stimulus to new research, new methods and new efficiency. During the period 1940 to 1957 agricultural science really became of age. It has been said that more agricultural progress has been accomplished in the past 50 years than in all of recorded history up until that period and our scientists have not reached the end. We will see even more startling developments in the years immediately ahead. 13% of our population now produces our Nation's food. Perhaps in a few more years 5% can do the job. Yes, we have made enormous progress, and with it has come problems, problems of surplus instead of scarcity for which we must all be thankful.

Now up to this point I have been dealing with generalities. Let us, for a few minutes, discuss details and the general functioning of the Soil Bank.

Much has been said and written about this program. Many people are still confused as to its purpose. Some are looking upon it as another Agricultural Conservation Program, especially the Conservation Reserve part of the Soil Bank. Some people have been confused as to the type of land which is eligible to be placed in the Soil Bank; others look upon the payments which will be made as the prime objective of the Program. These payments are only the means to an end. They are provided so that the necessary reduction in production can be accomplished, and to assist in the shift to conservation uses of some of the land which will be placed in the Soil Bank. The administration and adaptation of this broad program to all segments of our agricultural economy presents tremendous administrative problems. As we move into the stage where reduction is accomplished the crucial test of the whole soil bank undertaking may well come. As markets improve we may get reduction in participation before the final objectives are accomplished. In order for this program to work it must have the support of our Nation's farmers. It must be thoroughly understood by men such as you who have a very keen interest in the welfare of the farmers in your respective communities.

Let us, just for a moment, consider why a farmer would put land in the Soil Bank. First, and probably most important with him, it is a dollars and cents program -- payments now and improved market prices later. He will carefully weigh all factors and then finally decide that he will be as well off in the bank as outside. Some farmers are coming into the Soil Bank primarily because they believe it is the best answer for our surplus problem and they consider it their individual duty to contribute in this effort toward bringing of agriculture into better balance. Then we have another group who see in the Soil Bank an opportunity to reduce the size of their farm operations. This may be desirable in some cases because of labor shortage, or they may just wish to cut down on the present size of their operation because of illness or other factors. There is another group of farmers who are approaching retirement age and see in the Soil Bank Program an opportunity to quit active farm operation and still maintain their home on the farm in surroundings with which they are familiar. Weather and soil conditions have been factors in some areas in increasing the sign-up in the Soil Bank.

One of the major problems with which we are faced in a program of this nature is that of determining an equitable rate of payment that will accomplish the objectives set forth. A great deal of consideration and study went into the establishment of rates now in use in each phase of the Soil Bank. Many factors were considered in the establishment of these rates. We have provided for flexibility through the establishment of regulations that allow for local determination on both State and county level.

Let us look, for a moment, at this problem of rates. What happens in a program of this sort when rates established are too low? First, the program has no appeal to a person with a good crop prospect; second, it causes a desire for cancellation of the contract if weather conditions become favorable after the contract has been executed; third, over-all participation will center in areas of low productivity with the result that very little crop reduction is accomplished. With low rates the



chances are that acreage and reduction goals will not be met. All of this means that in the end the Government will not get its money's worth in reducing production. Now let us look at what happens if rates established are too high. First, we get over-enthusiasm for the program, particularly in areas of low productivity, with the result that we have heavy sign-up and some farmers are unable to get into the program. With higher rates we end up with a lower total acreage goal because the money allotted does not go as far in getting the job done, with the net result that, again, the Government does not accomplish the basic objectives at which the program is aimed.

There are two parts to the Soil Bank. The Acreage Reserve is a short-time, direct attack on surpluses of the six basic commodities - wheat, corn, cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco. This program is open only to farmers with acreage allotments for these crops. By reducing production of these basic crops below their farm allotments, farmers earn payments to compensate them for loss of current net income. The agreements between the Government and the farmer are for one year's duration. The 1957 Acreage Reserve Program will remove from production approximately 21 million acres of cropland which has been devoted to the production of the basic crops. Of this total about 13 million acres will be wheat land; 3 million cotton land; 5 million corn land, and the balance tobacco and rice land. The Acreage Reserve Program will be functioning in 1957 in the normal manner which the law provides. It will be a decidedly different program than the one in operation for the 1956 crop year, where the program was generally not available to farmers until late June, only a short time after the passage of the original Act. The normal planting season for most crops was passed by this date with the result that the program had to be adapted to conditions as they existed at the time. This year all the land in the Acreage Reserve has been signed to contracts prior to the start of the planting season with the result that none of this acreage will be used for crop production of any sort during the current year.

The Conservation Reserve is a more basic adjustment in the use of farm land. It is a long-time program with several objectives. Although it makes provision for the application of conservation measures on land removed from production, it is important to keep in mind that it is nevertheless an agricultural crop-reducing program. As such it encourages the withdrawal of land currently in crop production and putting that land to conservation uses. In many cases whole farm units are being placed under contract. It is hoped that the poorer lands will be more or less permanently retired from production and be dedicated to providing needed resources to which they are better suited, namely; wildlife, forestry, and grassland cover.

To accomplish these purposes the Conservation Reserve offers the farmer a variety of conservation practices adapted to local conditions which it will assist him in establishing on the land he withdraws from production under this program. Farmers desiring to participate enter into contracts with the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

These contracts may be for 3, 5, or 10 years depending on the approved practice the farmer chooses to undertake. In general, they will be for 3, 5 or 10 years where land is already in approved vegetative cover. Where it is necessary to establish cover and cost-share assistance is given, the contract will be for 5 or 10 years. The standard tree-planting contract will be for 10 years. Woody shrub plantings for wildlife will be covered by contracts for a 10-year period. This contract may be extended for the number of years for which tree-planting stock is not available, but in no case beyond 15 years nor beyond December 31, 1974.

A long range and very important objective of the Conservation Reserve is to build and maintain productive resources which can be called on when needed in the future. The wisdom of such action is clear when we consider the importance of being prepared to meet emergencies and the probable eventual demands of a steadily growing population.

The tract or tracts of land to be placed in the Conservation Reserve must be specifically designated. Farmers, themselves, may select from locally approved soil, water, forestry and wildlife conservation practices the particular practice they desire to apply to their conservation reserve land. Present farmer interest indicates that there will be certain definite patterns of practices selected in different sections of our country. For instance, Southeastern States have indicated a wide interest in forestry plantings and it is only logical to assume that many of our Western States will return large areas to grassland. Likewise, it is evident that some areas of our country because of certain characteristic types of agriculture are finding that the Conservation Reserve fits much better than in others. At its inception, it was never intended for the Conservation Reserve to remove areas of highly productive or the more profitable farming lands from the agricultural producing plant. I also believe there will be certain areas where there is a much greater interest in wildlife practices. There have been estimates that as many as 25 million acres of land may be ultimately removed from crop production by the Conservation Reserve. Perhaps 5 million of this may go into forestry plantings, the balance into other forms of vegetative cover and water storage areas. There is no practical way of knowing how accurate this figure is until farmers make their decisions.

All farm land regularly used in the production of crops, including such crops as tame hay which does not require annual tillage, is eligible for the Conservation Reserve. The only farm land that cannot be placed under this program is non-cropland; land used only for pasture; land already designated for the Acreage Reserve; and land owned by the Federal Government. Farmers who place land in the Conservation Reserve will receive two types of payments - a cost-sharing payment and annual payments.

The cost-sharing payment will be made to assist the farmer in the establishment of conservation practices on the land designated for the Conservation Reserve. This payment, made only in connection with contracts for 5 or more years, will be established for accepted conservation practices by State and County ASC Committees. It can range up to 80 percent of the cost of establishing such practices.



Annual payments are made on all land placed in the Conservation Reserve. This will be determined by multiplying a per-acre rate (for the land) by the number of acres placed in the Conservation Reserve. This per-acre annual payment rate varies by States, and may vary by counties and within counties. For the United States as a whole, the National average per-acre rate is about \$10.

Farms are eligible for both cost-sharing and an annual payment during the year a conservation practice is carried out on the Conservation Reserve land. Thereafter, the annual payment is made each year the contract is in force and contract conditions are met.

The minimum amount of land that may be placed in the Conservation Reserve by a farmer is 5 acres, unless trees are planted, then as little as 2 acres will be accepted. In some instances, on very small farms, as little as one acre may be placed in the program. While there is no limit on the amount of land that may be entered in the program by a particular farm, generally, the annual payment to any one farmer will be limited to \$5,000.

Farmers who place land in the Conservation Reserve cannot harvest crops or permit livestock grazing on the designated acreage during the period the contract is in force. Under emergency conditions, and it does have to be an emergency, the Secretary of Agriculture may permit livestock grazing on Conservation Reserve land in a particular locality by the farmer who owns or controls the land.

We are extremely conscious that any shortage of seeds needed to establish protective vegetative cover on the Soil Bank acres will slow down accomplishing the objective of the program. The question we are all confronted with is how much seed will be needed to establish that cover on the Soil Bank acres. This, of course, will depend on how many acres farmers place in the Conservation Reserve, the type of practices used and weather conditions. Since this is a voluntary program, the actual number of acres which will be put in Conservation Reserve will not be known prior to the end of the sign-up period on April 15.

We have already assembled some estimates of the available seed supplies in anticipation that we will be faced with a shortage of some types of seed. This seems quite likely to occur in those cases where satisfactory cover requires the use of locally-produced seed. We have hopes that the people who normally harvest seed of local adaptation will be appraised of the situation and increase their operations accordingly. There is no question that the Soil Bank Program will increase the demand for the type of seeds normally used in establishing good protective legume and grass cover.

Because the Conservation Reserve requires a protective cover for the duration of the contract period, the kind of seed mixtures to be used will be those normally used for pasture and range. The specific mixtures to be approved will be developed by the respective States and will be those which have proven successful for long-time cover. In a few areas where long-time seeding is impractical the seeding of annuals will be permitted.

The program did not become available until in the middle of the summer of 1956, after most farmers had completed their plantings. In spite of this late start a little more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million acres were placed in the Conservation Reserve in 1956. April 15 is the closing date for signing contracts which start with 1957. 4,700,000 acres have already been placed under contract.

At this time participation is higher in the Great Plain States than in any other section. The drought section in the Southwest may account for early participation in that area; however, as the season has moved along we have been getting correspondingly heavy participation in the Northern Great Plain States, which leads us to believe that the Program fits this area very well.

Regardless of where it is located good custody of the acreage placed in Conservation Reserve requires the establishment of the protective cover as rapidly as practical and feasible. Assuming moisture conditions are favorable, the establishment of desired grass cover will depend upon the availability of seed at reasonable prices.

We who are engaged in the administration of this program will, to the best of our ability, attempt to provide the opportunity for it to accomplish the desired objectives in the manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Nation.

The Soil Bank is a big program. It is a good program. It can be a far-reaching program. Millions of acres will eventually come out of crop production in this program to be placed in a reserve for the time when all our production capacity may be required.

Our farmers' understanding and their decisions will have much to do with the attainment of the objectives. Regardless of where land goes out of production it will assist in bringing about a more profitable balance between our agriculture plant and market outlets.

I hope I have clearly stated the basic aspects of this important program. If you have questions or comments on how we can better adapt it to Vermont, I will be happy to have them.

It has been a pleasure meeting with you.

MAKING ACP CLICK

Address by Roland Crumpler, Director,  
Conservation Programs Division, ACP Service  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 11, 1957

(Inasmuch as Mr. Crumpler spoke extemporaneously, we are unable to include a copy of his talk in this report).



## PROBLEMS FACING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Address by Clarence L. Miller, Associate Administrator  
Commodity Stabilization Service  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 11, 1957

### 1. Opening remarks -

- (a) I am glad to have the honor of meeting and discussing with you some of our real problems. I spent several years in a Kentucky county office so I am aware of the problems which face you committeemen and office managers. I also served as Chairman of the Kentucky State Committee and later as Director of the Tobacco Division, CSS. I feel I know a little about your problems.
- (b) You are the real contact persons between USDA and its programs and the farmer on the acres.
- (c) The Department of Agriculture is many times judged by your ability to do a good job.
- (d) It is important that you thoroughly understand the programs and the details of how they work.
- (e) Needless to say, you must be honest and fair and courteous at all times. The public judges you by your actions.

- 2. I welcome the opportunity to appear before your group to discuss quite frankly some of the problems facing American agriculture today, and also problems facing the marketing machinery involved in getting our agricultural products from the farm to the consumer. I have watched closely these problems at almost all levels from the producer to the consumer, including the part government has been playing in these problems, for the last 25 years.
- 3. Our No. 1 problem today is that agriculture is not sharing equally in the abundant peacetime prosperity that most other segments of our economy are enjoying. Apparently everyone wants to do something about it, but it is most difficult to get agreement as to what is the right thing to do. It is even more difficult to take the proper steps to solve the problem.
- 4. Most everyone agrees that supplies of most agricultural commodities are, in varying degrees, in excess of demand at profitable prices. As good proof of this in the fiber, feed and food fields, here is what has been happening to our carry-over stocks the last few years.



Here is the story on the carry-over by years of our principal grain crops (in millions of bushels).

<u>Crop</u>	<u>1944-53 Average</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Wheat	292	562	902	1,026	1,034
Corn	477	768	920	1,035	1,166
Oats	251	254	227	303	347
Barley	73	51	71	131	117
Rye	8	6	14	16	17
Sorgh. Gr. - Cwt.	21	7	22	75	80
Rice (Rough) - Cwt.	4	3	16	59	77

The cotton carry-over jumped from 2.8 million bales in 1952 to 5.6 million in 1953 to 9.7 million in 1954 to 11.2 million bales in 1955. On August 1, 1956 the cotton carry-over was approximately 14.5 million bales.

5. These carry-over stocks (a large part of which is held in CCC hands) have had a very depressing effect on free market prices of grains. These depressed prices of feed grains have brought about increased supplies of pork, beef and other meat and dairy products and this in turn has depressed their prices. The increase in cotton carry-over stocks has had a bad effect on world cotton trade and prices.
6. These increased carry-over stocks of grain and fiber have been brought about by many things:
  - (a) Farmers do a better job of producing with modern equipment, seeds, fertilizer and insecticides.
  - (b) Prices were good during Korean conflict and high support levels were continued until 1955 and stimulated desire on farmers' part to produce all they possibly could.
  - (c) Restrictions on acreage were not put into effect until 1954 and they have not been very effective since applied.
  - (d) World agricultural production, since we are at peace, has continued upward which has lessened demand, world-wide, for a lot of our excess stocks of food, feed and fiber. The umbrella we have held under prices has aided some of these countries in increasing their production.
7. These carry-over stocks have not only adversely affected farm prices, but because of their magnitude, they have also changed our normal marketing and storing machinery methods and requirements.
  - (a) Warehouse (private and co-op owned) space has been expanded rapidly by several hundred million bushels. They may be over-expanded in some areas if our carry-over gets back to near normal.



- (b) CCC will soon own outright close to 1 billion bushels of space. CCC also has had close to 100 million bushels of wheat stored in ships.
- (c) Normal inventories carried by the mills and trade have dropped and CCC inventories have risen.
- (d) The normal marketing methods of selling grain have been disrupted because CCC is required to take over the grain covered by non-recourse loans. You know the effect this has had on our normal marketing machinery and the dislocation of many types of merchandising of these products. The same thing is now beginning to happen to the cotton industry.

8. Our present administration requested Congress early in January of 1956 for legislation that would strike at the core of this surplus problem. One of the main parts of this request was a Soil Bank Plan which would strike at the heart of the supply problem. It had to be bold and large if it was to accomplish much. It was proposed in that spirit. It involves over 1 billion dollars in cost a year. After about 5 months of debate, an acceptable bill was finally signed by the President. The Soil Bank Plan would store in the soil the supplies of food and fiber we may well need in the future and for which we have little need either here or abroad today.

We believe the Soil Bank Plan will be accepted by the producer, the middleman, and the consumer because it can be of tremendous value to all three groups:

- (a) To the producer it will help him get his supplies in line with demand and the financial assistance will help him in the transition. Free market prices will improve as a direct result.
- (b) The middleman would like to see the farmer prosperous with sound programs that will not disrupt the normal marketing machinery.
- (c) The consumers are interested in ample supplies of food at fair prices. They do not like to see food wasted and would much rather see our reserve carried in the soil for future use.

9. There are many other things this administration is doing to help correct the farm problem:

- (a) All-out effort is being made to move into export all of our surplus that we can. This is being done vigorously on all fronts. We like dollar sales first where we can get them. We also use barter sales, sales under 480 (for foreign currencies) and outright gifts. Export sales for the July-December period in 1956 were at an all-time high -- running 39 percent higher in value and 45 percent higher in quantity

than for the same period a year earlier. We have reversed the trend of carry-over stocks buildup, by these selling programs.

- (b) Expanded funds for research and education are being made available. In the past 3 years, appropriations have been increased by nearly 27 million dollars.
- (c) Outright purchases of many perishable items that are in serious trouble seasonally are carried out. This is being done seasonally on many agricultural products when they get in depressed condition price-wise. Pork, lard, beef, turkeys, eggs and many other products have been purchased under this program.
- (d) Gas tax refund to farmers has become law. This will refund about 60 million dollars a year in Federal tax paid by farmers for gas used in producing farm crops. The President requested this in January of last year.
- (e) Every effort possible is being made to strengthen farm prices with the tools at hand. Proper credit; drought assistance; Rural Development Program -- these and many other programs are being used to maximum.

10. In Summary - - -

- (a) Let me say that we recognize the squeeze our farmers are in. We are taking the steps we can under the law to assist. We have asked for and received new legislation to go further. We should not and cannot depend on another war to bale us out of our farm income trouble as has happened twice before in the last 20 years.
- (b) Our programs are no better than you people at the State and County level can make them.
- (c) You are the important link between the USDA and its farm programs and the farmer on the acres.
- (d) Your honesty, ability and effort to get the farmer to understand our programs largely determine their value to the farmer.
- (e) I know (from experience) that you are having one of the greatest experiences of your life in doing your job well.

## THE FARM LABOR SITUATION

Address by Merrill Walker, State Farm Placement  
Supervisor, Employment Service  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

This is the 10th year that the Placement of Farm Workers has been in operation by the Employment Service; since World War II when the Extension Service had that responsibility.

There has been a slight let-up on the demand for year around farm workers the past year after several years of increased demand.

We had fewer farm orders in our offices this past winter than any time in several years. I think the reason for this is that around 1500 Canadians have obtained visas. This number includes members of the family. Although some have taken up other work, a large number are still working on Vermont farms.

The demand for seasonal workers is nearly as great this year as in the past.

We brought in only about 400 Canadians for seasonal work last summer but, we placed more city youth. In 1955, we placed 236 and in 1956, we placed 312.

Due to a small apple harvest in 1956 we were able to recruit enough local workers to harvest the crop in most of the areas.

A very few Canadians were used in Addison County, and some colored migrants in one orchard. A few colored workers were also used in two orchards in the Southern part of the State. (They were brought in by the employer from Florida).

We recruited <sup>local</sup> school youths to pick beans and sweet corn, as this can be done during school vacation. The potato harvest was also done by local help mostly, although one large potato farmer brought in some Canadians to take care of his crop and to help harvest it.

The outlook for 1957 is not much different than last year. There will be a large amount of road construction this year, also plenty of new building construction, to compete for workers.

The wages and hours offered are more attractive than farmers are able to meet.

There seems to be less boys being drafted into the Armed Services and that is an encouraging factor.

## SCHOOL YOUTH

Of the 312 city youth placed in 1956 - 127 were placed in Addison County. Most of these came from cities outside the State. The states furnishing the most were Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.



The agriculture students came from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

The latter group come in April, May and early June and in some cases stay until late September, as it counts on their schooling. Most of these boys are more interested in farm work and do a better job.

All out-of-state workers are recruited by Cooperative Farm Personnel Service through the efforts of Martha Buttrick.

Farmers are required to join the Coop, and take out insurance on their workers. Farmers desiring this type of help place their order through our Farm Placement Representative, and if they meet the requirements, youth are assigned to their farms.

Our Representatives meet them at the train or bus station, take them to the farm and make several visits during the summer to the farm to see that arrangements are satisfactory and both the farmer and the boy are contented.

Some parents visit the youth at the farm and thus have an opportunity to learn more about "Life on a Farm." In most instances, this is an advantage to both parties.

This service is a great help to the farmers of Vermont. A large percentage of these workers make out well, but when one does fail we do our best to find a suitable replacement. Some come back for several years.

If you, or any of your farmer friends are interested in this type of workers, they should get in touch with our Farm Placement Representatives. We are unable to get enough Agricultural boys so the first to get their order in will be supplied. We will have an unlimited number of inexperienced boys for placement around June 20.

Inexperienced boys' wages start at \$50 per month and the experienced get the prevailing wage.

A limited number of girls are available for placement on suitable farms.

Last August we had a picnic at Lake Dunmore for the city youth, their parents, the farmers and the school interviewers. There were nearly 300 present.

This year we plan a BIG EVENT on the 10th Anniversary of the Youth Program in the Employment Service.

#### CANADIAN FARM LABOR

The importation of Canadian farm labor continues the same as last year for seasonal work only.

This importation started February 15 to April 1 to get help for sugaring; April 1 to June 1 for preparing the land and planting; June 1 to September 1 for haying; September 1 to November 1 for harvesting and storing the crops.

A farmer having all these operations could bring in a worker February 15 and keep him till November 1.

The conditions of the agreement are the same as last year, only the minimum wage has been raised to \$35 per week.

#### NEW TRAINEE PROGRAM

We have started a new trainee program in Addison County, and it has been fairly successful so far. We have placed about 35 workers, some adult and some boys. These were recruited in New York City. More than half of the trainees are Puerto Ricans.

We have also placed 2 Dutch families, 1 single Dutch worker and one Hungarian.

#### NEW SEASONAL FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

We have seasonal farm men for a 6-month period in the following offices: Barre, Bennington, Burlington, St. Albans, Newport, Rutland, Middlebury and White River. These men will work full time on Farm Placement. There are 2 men on the Farm program in Middlebury to take care of the large number of city youth. By this system we hope to be of better service to all the farmers.

Letters have been mailed to all farmers telling them about our service.



## STATUS OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

Address by Merton Ashton, Assistant Director,  
Vermont Selective Service System  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

I am here today representing Colonel Elbert T. Kimball, State Director of the Vermont Selective Service System, vice Colonel Fred S. Kent retired as of February 28, 1957.

I have broken my Selective Service message into two (2) parts - CONSTANTS of Selective Service and VARIABLES of Selective Service.

Some of the important constants of Selective Service are -

- a. The provisions for registration which in general require male citizens born subsequent to August 30, 1922, and male aliens born subsequent to September 15, 1925, who enter the United States for temporary or permanent residence, to register with the Selective Service System. Citizens residing in the United States must register within 5 days after reaching their 18th birthday. Aliens must register within 6 months after they enter the United States.
- b. The provisions requiring a registrant to keep his local board informed of all changes in his status including changes in his mailing address.
- c. The provisions for deferments for those who meet the specific requirements for the deferment concerned such as the statutory deferments for high school students and college students, the 1-D deferments for certain reservists and the various occupational deferments.
- d. The provisions which extend the age of liability for military service from age 26 to age 28 or age 35 for registrants who receive certain deferments.
- e. The provisions requiring the induction of certain selected registrants for 2 years of military service.

One of the most important variables of Selective Service is the increase in the number of opportunities afforded young men to meet their military obligation and at the same time to obtain the necessary training for their chosen civilian occupation.

The provisions of the present Selective Service Act as first passed in June 1948 and amended in June 1951, emphasized military service but with the passage of the 1952 Reserve Act and its amendments in 1955, the emphasis has shifted from military service to military training.

A young man, his parents and teachers should acquaint themselves with the great variety of training programs available in order that the young man may make an early choice so that his life plans may not be abruptly interrupted by orders for 2 years of military service from the Selective Service System.

General Hershey has recently said, and I quote from his editorial in the April 1957 issue of "Selective Service" -

"The wide differences in the practices of the several departments of the Armed Forces contribute many varieties of ways for a registrant to enter the Armed Forces. Testimony before the Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives recently indicated that there were 33 different methods by which a registrant might meet his obligation of service. This wide variation will require the utmost flexibility in the Selective Service System in order to implement the objectives of the Congress in the building and maintaining of an adequate and effective Ready Reserve."

I wish to emphasize the following to this group since it concerns our agricultural registrants. It is my opinion that a 2-C deferment which extends the registrant's age of liability for military service from age 26 to age 35 must be granted to and continued for only those registrants employed full time on an essential farm (without a break), where a sufficient quantity of agricultural commodities are produced for sale. This is particularly true, since Selective Service is limited in our selection for induction for 2 years of military service to nonfathers under age 26 and to delinquents and since registrants who have chosen an agricultural pursuit now have so many ways of meeting their military obligations without seriously interrupting their civilian plans.



## ACP, SOIL BANK, AND FORESTRY

Address by A. W. Gottlieb, State Forester (Parts II, III, V, and VI)  
and Ray Foulds, Extension Forester (Parts I and IV)  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

### I. Background of the ACP Forestry Program and the Soil Bank

In this year of 1957 the ACP program enters its 21st year of operation. In Vermont it can look back to an enviable record of progress, and no less so in forestry than in other phases of the program. The forestry program at first developed slowly, and was concerned mainly with emergency measures such as the clean-up after the 1938 hurricane. However, in recent years it has developed with greater speed, helped along through assistance by County Foresters and by consulting foresters.

The question is sometimes raised, "Why do we have an ACP forestry program?" To answer this we really have to go back to 1924, when the U. S. Congress passed the Clarke-McNary Act. Prior to the passage of the Act, a powerful lobby of conservationists, who had observed the destructive cutting practices being followed on most of our forest lands, had urged passage of the legislation which would prevent such cutting by law and would force woodland owners to follow desirable practices such as planting, pruning, and thinning. However, a larger group felt that education, rather than regulation, was the answer, and so the Clarke-McNary Act authorized help to the States by Extension Foresters working for the Agricultural Extension Service. It also provided help with fire prevention and control measures and with the growing of trees for planting.

As the years went on the process of education by only one man in each State as Extension Forester moved rather slowly. In some states more Extension Foresters were hired, and today, some states have from four to ten such foresters conducting educational programs. However, in 1936 it was felt that other ways of achieving better forestry on the land were needed. One of these was the sharing of costs with the woodland owner. The other was service work provided by service agencies such as the State Forestry Departments and the Soil Conservation Service.

The cost-sharing assistance was first made available in 1936 through the ACP program. It was felt then -- as it is now -- that by such cost-sharing more conservation could be established on the land than could be expected if land owners and operators were to depend entirely on their own resources. After all, tree planting, weeding, pruning, and the earlier thinnings involve an investment of time and money from which no return can be expected for several years. It is felt that government help with such practices is justifiable when long-term benefits are involved which affect not only the individual, but also the community and State. The program developed steadily, and by 1955 the accomplishments in Vermont were as follows:

Tree planting -	7,268 acres
Improvement of Young Forest Stands -	15,709 acres

From the first, the Extension Forester in Vermont worked closely with the ACP program. He helped to make farmers aware of the program and encouraged their participation in it. Assistance was also given by technicians working with Soil Conservation Districts. In 1941 the County Forester program of service to woodland owners came into being in Vermont. This service work supplemented the work of the Extension Forester, as it does today. The County Forester gave, and today still gives, on-the-ground information on forestry practices. He gives prior approval to forestry work being planned under the ACP program. In many cases he gives final approval after the work is done, although I believe that in some towns it is done by the Community Committeemen.

Tree planting, in addition to the 7,268 acres planted under ACP in the past, has amounted to 26,732 acres. Altogether a total of only 34,000 acres has been planted in the last 50 years. There are still 97,000 acres of plantable land in Vermont, which means that we have a long way to go. One thing that should help, in addition to the regular ACP program, is the Soil Bank Act.

We haven't as yet said anything about the Soil Bank, and so perhaps we should now. Of course, the Soil Bank is trying to do two things -- to reduce production of crops of which there is a surplus, such as wheat, tobacco, and soy beans; and to conserve soil for future production of food crops -- if needed -- while currently being used to produce tree crops. Presumably we will be so efficient in producing food crops on the best agricultural land eleven years from now that this conservation reserve land will not be needed -- in which case it will continue to produce forest crops. Since we are cutting softwood timber 1-3/4 times as fast as we are growing it right now, this will be a good thing. I hope that, in future, the number of sawmills in Vermont can increase, rather than growing less, as has been the case recently.

I have heard some people say that the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank isn't too popular in Vermont, because the only land that you can put in is meadow land, and Vermont farmers need every bit of meadow land that they've got. This may be true, but the records show that about 300 farms are abandoned as farms each year in Vermont. If this is so, then why can't part or all of these farms be put into the Soil Bank? The rental of the land by the government will be \$3 per acre per year for the tame hay land and \$10 per acre per year for the row crop land. In addition, government assistance in planting trees will amount to 80% of the cost, instead of only 50%, as is the case with the ACP program. In 30 years the timber alone will be worth \$100 per acre or more. Thus, the income from the land will be \$3 per acre per year from timber in addition to the rental fee of \$3 per year for 10 years (or \$10 for the row crop land.)

As far as Christmas trees are concerned, you may not legally plant trees under the Soil Bank for such purpose. However, after the 10-year contract is up, there is no restriction on the use of the crop planted.



We might ask, "How successful is the Soil Bank in Vermont so far?" Well, as of March 15, 1957, there were 1,060.5 acres signed up under the Soil Bank. A total of 882,000 Soil Bank trees have been ordered. Altogether, including Soil Bank, ACP, and other trees, 2,400,000 trees will leave the State Nursery this year. In addition, others from private nurseries will also be planted. Perhaps 3,000,000 trees from all sources will be planted this year in Vermont. This many trees will plant about 3,000 acres. If this rate were continued each year in the future, it would take 33 years to get the planting done on 97,000 acres; and, in addition, more abandoned land is being added to the total each year. Therefore, both production of trees and the use of them by farmers need to be stepped up.

I would like to say a word more about ACP and forestry before concluding the first part of the presentation. How big a place does forestry hold in the ACP program? In terms of dollars, it gets only about 2% Nationally. In Vermont it gets only 2.79%. This is a pretty low figure when you consider the fact that 5.7% of Vermont's cash receipts from farm marketings comes from forest products; and, in addition, a considerable income is derived by non-farmers from the sale of forest products. If we were to double the amount of participation by Vermont farmers in ACP forestry practices, we would be only beginning to give forestry its true importance in the farm picture. One way should be to be sure, in every county, that a specific amount of money is set aside in advance just for the forestry practices. In most counties where a good ACP forestry program is under way, this is already being done. Another way would be to develop better methods of working with consulting foresters through the purchase order plan. So far, this plan is being used in only one Vermont County - Rutland. In New Hampshire it is being used in three counties. It could be used more widely in Vermont - probably in Orange, Windsor, and Windham Counties.

## II. Availability of Trees

There will be a total of about 2,400,000 trees delivered from the State Nursery this spring. Of this total, 700,000 will be shipped to fill orders under the Soil Bank.

Realizing that many people who have had a planting program and who have been planting trees for a number of years, are now planting under the Soil Bank program, we have made every effort to fill Soil Bank orders. In some cases where the orders were large we have been obliged to cut down the size of the order.

Looking forward to what we can expect from the State Nursery in the next three years, we hope to have available about 2,000,000 trees three years of age for the fall of 1957 and the spring of 1958. In addition, if the present one-year stock develops well, there may be upwards of 2,000,000 two-year stock available. For the fall of 1958-spring of 1959 we should have about 6,000,000 trees 3 years of age, less any two-year stock used in 1957-1958. It will be the fall of 1959-spring of 1960 before the Nursery reaches full production of three-year stock which is 12,000,000 trees. These estimates are based on the present inventory

in the Nursery and are subject to change due to losses from weather conditions, insects, diseases and all the other things which plague a nursery.

The county foresters have been instructed to reorder next fall any orders which we have been obliged to cancel this year. We have found it impractical to hold over orders in Montpelier since the needs of owners change. If the demand for trees is high for next spring, the inventory referred to above indicates that it may be necessary in some cases to reorder twice before we are able to make delivery.

### III. Work in the Nursery

To produce the stock required it has been necessary for the State to make some drastic changes in the State nursery. A farm of 110 acres, located about a mile from the original nursery, has been acquired. With all of the states expanding their nursery production, a shortage of tree seed appears to be inevitable. To provide for an assured supply of seed, a seed extraction plant has been built. Cold storage facilities for seed will make it possible to carry over seed for use in years when there is no seed crop on trees. By early this summer we hope to have the entire nursery under irrigation. To increase production to 12,000,000 trees it has been necessary to mechanize many operations formerly done by hand.

When the problems of raising 12,000,000 seedlings in a nursery are recognized it is not hard to visualize the problems which will be encountered in getting these trees properly planted in the field. It should be kept in mind that we are planning to plant three times as many trees in the next ten years as we have in the last 50 years.

### IV. Getting the Planting Job Done

Most of us who have tree planting in mind this spring are pretty well set on how to do the job. The best and surest way, of course, is to do it ourselves with our hired man and children. However, some of us are not physically able to do this work, and must rely on planting crews provided with the help of neighbors; the County Forester; consulting foresters; the County Club Agent (4-H Clubs); the SCS farm planner; or others. If we have more than 5,000 trees to plant and have land suitable for machine planting we will probably want to arrange for the use of a planting machine. One of these is available from the State through the County Forester. Cost is 50¢ per 1000 trees planted. You must have a tractor to pull the machine and at least two men -- one to drive the tractor and one to sit on the machine and plant. If a third man is available, he can also sit on the machine and plant.

Some of the Soil Conservation Districts are providing complete planting service with a machine. All you have to provide is the trees. They do all the planting. The cost is about \$12 per 1000 trees, which would be about \$14 per acre if trees are planted 6' x 6'. Total cost per acre in this case would be about \$10 for the trees, plus \$14 for the planting, or \$24 per acre for everything. The Caledonia County and Franklin County



Districts have such machines. The Franklin County machine has a special scalping attachment that removes heavy sod ahead of the planting point so that the young tree won't have grass competition as it begins to grow.

Some private owners who do a lot of planting have their own machines; or have equipped wheel tractors with spade-like attachments that can be bolted to the wheels. These include Clarence Miller of Morrisville; P. C. Jacques of Huntington; and Stoddard Enterprises, Inc., of Bethel. There are probably others that I haven't heard about. You can rig up your own tree planting "spudder" attachment for your wheel tractor by writing for plans contained in "Tree Planters' Notes," No. 25, May, 1956, put out by the U. S. Forest Service, Washington 25, D. C.

I would like to say a word of warning about using youth groups (4-H, Boy Scouts, etc.) to plant trees. Let's use good judgment and not overestimate their ability. They do not have the strength of adults, and their interest will wane rapidly when tree planting stops being fun and becomes hard work. Let's not push them to the point of exhaustion -- they may lose all interest, and never plant trees again. It is better to plant 2,000 trees in one day -- and do it well -- than to plant 3,000 and do the last 1,000 poorly. The unplanted trees can be "heeled-in" in a wet place, and the planting can be finished a week or two later.

In planting with youth groups, as well as with adults, we must beware of three common errors: (1) planting too deep (the trees suffocate); (2) planting too shallow - putting two or three trees in one hole; and (3) not firming the soil properly around the planted tree (air gets in the hole and dries out the roots).

We have said that it will not be too much of a problem to plant 3,000,000 trees this spring. The question is, can we do the job in 1958 with 4,000,000 trees, and in 1960, when 12,000,000 trees will be available? To be sure that we can, we will need to have:

- .1. A list of tree planting machines, costs of operation, and available planting crews in the State, by counties. This can be prepared by the Extension Forester.
2. Training of 4-H and other youth leaders in tree-planting techniques (by Extension Forester with help of Club Agents and County Foresters).
3. Training schools for planting crew foremen (by Vermont Forest Service cooperating with Soil Conservation Districts and consulting foresters).
4. Planting demonstrations conducted by County Agents and the Extension Forester cooperating with County Foresters and private individuals.

## V. Avoiding Errors in Planting

In any large program such as the Soil Bank program, quantity rather than quality is likely to be emphasized. In looking at plantations which have been made in the past we find that many have been failures. Trees have been planted on unsuitable soils; the influence of insects and diseases has been overlooked; lack of protection from grazing and fire has resulted in losses; improper planting methods have contributed to failures. To insure that the job will be done properly the county foresters are making an attempt to examine prospective planting sites and recommending species suitable to the site. Advice and help in training planting crews is available.

In planting white pine the need for protection from blister rust should not be overlooked. The county foresters are being supplied with maps of blister rust control areas in the State and they have been asked to determine if plantations are located within established control areas. They have also been asked to look into the cost of protecting white pine from blister rust before recommending the planting of this species. The Blister Rust agents are available for help, both in determining the risk of blister rust infection and in helping an owner in eradicating currants and gooseberry plants where this is necessary. Planters ordering white pine should not overlook the agreement to protect pine plantations from blister rust on the nursery stock application.

Another pest of white pine and Norway spruce which should not be overlooked is the white pine weevil. In some areas of the State the damage caused by this insect makes the planting of these trees inadvisable. In recent years the white pine leaf aphid has added to the problem of raising white pine in some areas.

Ray Foulds has already spoken of the three common errors in planting. There is little use in planting trees if the work is not done properly.

## VI. Other Forestry Work

In closing I would like to speak of a cultural practice which is often overlooked. The opportunity exists on many acres in Vermont to establish good stands of trees by the simple process of weeding existing young stands of volunteer growth. The cost of establishing a stand in this manner is much less than the cost of planting the same area in most cases. The principle involved is the same as that employed in any weeding operation - the removal of undesirable plants to favor the growth of those desired. Trees such as pin cherry, popple, soft maple and beech are cut back to favor the growth of trees such as pine, spruce or the better hardwoods - ash, maple, birch and basswood. This work is often done when the stand is of head height and is referred to by many people as "brush." Improvement cuttings in older stands are a worthwhile operation and can often convert a mediocre or poor stand to a good stand. There are thousands of acres of cull stands in Vermont which must some day be converted to productive stands by the removal of cull trees.

ACP assistance is available for this work. Eighty percent of the cost up to \$25.00 will be paid. To date comparatively little use has been made of the practice but there is an opportunity for much of this work.

Contract forestry work by consulting foresters has been available in only Rutland County to date. Consulting foresters are being encouraged to provide more of this service and they will no doubt provide it if the demand is great enough. With the increase in planting in the State it is hoped that more consulting foresters will provide contract planting service. The New England Forestry Foundation is initiating work in Lamoille County this spring with a consulting forester located in Morrisville. This should satisfy a long-felt need in this area.





## FORESTRY PRACTICES FROM THE FARMER'S STANDPOINT

Address by Edson E. Gifford  
Vermont State ASC Committeeman  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

I live in the town of East Randolph on the old homestead. This farm has been in the Gifford family since 1840. My grandfather and my father farmed this land. My grandfather at first had a large flock of sheep. About 1870 sheep began to give way to cattle and butter became the main crop. After World War I, I was manager of the Col. Chandler estate in Randolph. In 1924 I moved on to the home farm and now my son, Emery, who lives across the road from our house is helping me and will eventually take over.

There are 400 acres in our farm, of which 75 acres are cropland. Besides this I rent another 18 acres of cropland that adjoin our farm. We have 105 acres of open pasture. The rest is in rough hilly land and woodland. My main farm income is from a herd of 104 Jerseys (we are milking 57 this winter) and a flock of 600 hens (Hall-Cross).

When the ACP started in 1936, I enrolled and have been a participant ever since.

In 1940 I became interested in forestry practices. That year I planted  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre with 500 red pine. Besides that I transplanted about 500 maple seedlings in bare spots on about 10 acres that had been damaged by the 1938 hurricane.

As I stated a minute ago, there are some steep hilly areas back of the house. This place was beginning to show erosion. So in 1942 I started planting white and some red pine seedlings on this steep hillside. In 3 years' time I set out 24,000 pine that I got free from SCS. Since then I have averaged about 5,000 trees per year, so that in all I have now about 120 acres planted to pine and spruce.

I would like at this point to stress the importance of calling in the county forester before planning tree planting. Get him out to your farm to look over the proposed planting site, the type of soil, etc., and take advantage of his technical advice. Because I did not do this at first, I had to replant about 10 acres. That cost money and was a loss of time.

In 1955 I started pruning my first plantings. I pruned 5 acres in 1955; 5 acres in 1956; and plan to do this amount of pruning each year. Our county forester has been very helpful in showing us where and how to prune effectively. He recently told me that in another 4 or 5 years, I could take out about 4 or 5 cords of pulp in doing a systematic thinning.

Planting trees is interesting and profitable. It also costs money. I figure that the cost of trees and labor runs about \$16 per acre. With higher prices for trees and labor this cost will, of course, go up.

Is it worthwhile to do this?

Well, the steep sidehill was no good for pasture or crops, and erosion was developing. These trees have stopped erosion. The mulch is holding moisture and there are springs in that area that now run year around. Before 1940 these springs would dry up in summer. This forced me to have a well dug. Now, since the springs run year around, I hardly need the well, but with the herd increasing I am glad I have both the springs and the well.

As I stated before, the 1938 hurricane pretty nearly ruined our maple orchard, so we only hang about 500 buckets. But the young maples that I have set out are coming along nicely and Emery will some day have a good sugar orchard. My experience is that in setting out maple seedlings, it is best to take those that run 3 ft. to 5 ft. in height. The smaller ones don't thrive too well.

We all see around our State plenty of steep, hilly land that should be planted to trees. The trees will save the soil by preventing erosion, and the trees will pay a profit if handled under technical advice. Maybe some day that kind of land will qualify under the Soil Bank program, for tree planting is a needed conservation practice.

In a very few years there will be an annual cash return from these plantings. This, I am sure, means that the farm is gaining in value each year. When I set these trees out I did not realize how soon I would be able to enjoy and benefit from them. When the grandchildren are ready for college, these plantations will be able to foot the bills.

I believe that here in Vermont a farm forest that is properly managed can be a very profitable source of income and a project that will enhance the value of the whole farm.

## ASC WORK AND THE EXTENSION SERVICE

Address by R. P. Davison, Acting Director of Extension  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

It is always a pleasure to meet with you folks and talk about the close working relationship of your organization and the Cooperative Extension Service in Vermont. This arrangement has been going on for twenty-two years, and has helped over that period of time to bring about good programs for farmers in the State.

I would like to first review our organic relationship, that is our relationship set up by law.

By Federal law, the Director of the Extension Service is an ex-officio member of the State ASC Committee. He has full voting powers and is responsible, along with the three appointed members, for the program policies and operations in the State. This is an important responsibility resting on the Director of Extension, and one which has always been taken seriously by Director Carrigan in the past, and by myself since I have been serving on the State Committee.

County agents, by Federal law, are ex-officio members of county ASC committees. They advise on policy and operational matters, and work closely with the county committee in all of its work.

Now, I would like to briefly discuss with you assignments made to the Cooperative Extension Service by the Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with a memorandum of understanding, that is in effect between the USDA and the Land Grant institutions in each State, relating to the Cooperative Extension Service work.

The Extension Service is responsible under this agreement for supplying general information about all of the programs operated by the ASC to the farmers of the State. It is the educational arm of the Department in this connection. Thus, work is being done continually by Extension Service members in discussing the value, the payment rates, the sign-up procedures, etc., of the ACP; keeping folks in the State informed relative to CCC operations, even though they aren't directly affected by them in Vermont; and keeping folks informed relative to the Wool Program.

And, during the past year, Extension has had the responsibility of explaining the Soil Bank Program to farmers and landowners, and helping them to see how it would fit their individual farm programs.

And now as to some agreements that we have here in Vermont between the Extension Service and the ASC. These agreements deal with getting information relative to these programs into the press, over the radio, and on television. At the State level the agreement simply calls for the Extension editor to be responsible for these activities and for the ASC administrative officer to give him information for the press and radio, and T.V., that he would like to have reach the public.



Likewise, at the county level, the county agents according to this agreement handle all news and radio matters pertaining to the ASC Program. County committees should get information to them that they wish publicized, and, of course, the agents will dig up much themselves.

Now just a word about the educational program of the Extension Service and how ASC activities are tied in. The primary job of the Vermont Extension Service is educational. It is to keep farmers informed and give them the latest information in various subject matter fields, and also to teach them how to apply this information on their farms.

This morning I looked up the various features of the Vermont Extension Service program as carried in the Director's plan of work. Three of these features are as follows:

1. Assisting farm people with ways and means of achieving efficient production and marketing on agricultural products.
2. The conservation of our soil and water resources for present and future generations.
3. Assisting farm and rural people in getting information relative to new Federal and State programs, and to help them in determining the value of these programs for their own farm units.

In working on these features of the program, Extension Service workers in Vermont tie in the use of ASC practices in assisting farmers to achieve efficient production. More and wiser use of lime has been a byword with the Extension Service for nearly as long as it has been in existence, and certainly the ASC program has proven a way to get farmers to use this important mineral. Likewise, the use of fertilizer and soil-conserving practices have been discussed with farmers, and those available under the ASC program have been fitted into their programs.

Teaching the value of conservation of soil and water resources has long been one of the aims of Vermont Extension Service workers. Land use information has been made available to farmers, and such practices as forestry and the several soil management practices including ditching, terracing, etc., in the ASC program have been worked into farmers' individual programs. Now that the Soil Bank is available we have another program that can be used to advantage in this area on many farms in the State.

The third feature mentioned above--that of assisting farm and rural people in getting information relative to Federal and State programs, of course, is one of the basic jobs of the Extension Service. When the Soil Bank Program was first announced, several people on our staff actively started working to get information about it before the people of the State.

In addition, they worked with many individuals in helping them to think through the program and determine whether or not it would be of value in their own individual farming set-up. As changes have come about in the ACP Program the Extension Service again has made it part of their job to inform people in the State relative to these changes.

Finally, it seems to me that this close cooperation and working relationship between an educational agency, the Vermont Extension Service; and an action agency of the Government, the ASC Program, has helped to bring about a sound, efficient, and economical conservation program for the benefit of Vermont farmers.





## THE CHALLENGE TO COMMITTEEMEN

Address by Harris W. Soule, Director, Northeast Area, CSS  
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference  
Burlington, Vermont, April 12, 1957

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to meet with you at this conference and to speak on the topic, "The Challenge to Committeemen." I am sure you know that it is very pleasant for me to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. Sometimes it is my unpleasant duty to visit certain States to jack up the committees and administrators to do a more effective job. However, I can assure you that it is not the case in Vermont. You have the reputation of carrying on good operation. On a recent visit when we appraised the State Office operations, I was happy that hardly any items we reviewed were appraised below very good or outstanding. I think you will agree with me that the success of your administration in Vermont is due to the way that the committeemen, State and county and community, have accepted their responsibilities and have tried to do the best job possible. Then, too, your county office managers have played a vital role in a very successful operation. I am sure you will also agree that the success in no small way is the result of Al Heald's alert and aggressive administration. Al is well known throughout the area for his alert, aggressive administration. Speaking of being well known reminds me of a story I heard the other day. It seems that a fellow by the name of Sam was boasting to a friend how many well-known people he knew. Why, he said, I know the Governor, President Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth and the Pope. His friend couldn't believe that and he bet Sam \$10 that if they visited the State Capital that the Governor wouldn't see them without advance appointment. Well, they went to the Capital and sure enough, when Sam was announced out came the Governor and greeted them with open arms. Sam's friend was a little taken aback, but he said to Sam, "Well, I'll bet you \$100 that the President won't recognize you if we go to Washington." They went, and sure enough when Sam was announced the President received them with hearty hospitality and said that he was so glad to have a chance to visit with Sam again. Well, nothing to do but what Sam's friend bet him \$500 that Queen Elizabeth wouldn't know him as he had boasted. So they flew to London and sure enough, when the Queen was aware of Sam's presence she greeted him in Royal fashion and really rolled out the red carpet. Well, nothing was left but to visit the Vatican and so Sam's friend bet \$1,000 that the Pope would not receive them. They flew to Rome and sure enough, when Sam sent his name in he was ushered in to the Vatican between two Swiss guards and his friend was told that he could wait outside. In a few minutes, while he was wandering in the courtyard he looked up and, lo and behold, there was Sam with the Pope on the balcony visiting away as old friends. Just then a young Italian boy came along and said, "Hey, Mister, who is the fellow up there in the balcony with Sam?" You can see that Sam was pretty well known and I think that in the Northeast, Al is pretty nearly as well known as Sam.

It seems to me the challenge to committeemen may be expressed as follows:

1. To carry on the good administration of the past programs and committeemen.
2. To know in detail the present programs and be sure that they are explained to farmers.
3. Administer the program fairly and efficiently within the policy laid down by the Congress and the Department.
4. Act as liaison between the farmer and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

I am sure that you will agree that this is some challenge and yet, over the years, the committeemen have met it as I am sure they will do in the future.

As you know, the committee system was established in 1936 by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. In this Act Congress authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish local units and to provide for the election of community committeemen to assist in the operation of the various programs. The Act also provided for the election of county committeemen who would have the responsibility of administering the programs through the county office and the appointment of State committeemen by the Secretary of Agriculture. Soon after the Act was passed, I remember very well the discussion which took place in Washington as to whether or not the committee system should be established to administer the Agricultural Conservation Program. That program, then as now, was the principal activity for the committees to administer in Vermont and other States with similar agricultural conditions. Some people very conscientiously believed that the judgment which farm leaders could bring to the administration of farm programs would be a very helpful factor, others, just as conscientiously, believed that farmers did not have administrative training and that the programs could be much more effectively administered by full-time employees with a streamlined organization. Well, as you know, the committee system was finally established and started operation in Vermont in 1938. I once heard the definition of a committee. I am going to give it to you even though I cannot subscribe to the definition as applying to our committee system. Someone has said that a committee is a group of the incompetent, elected by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary. Well, that may apply to some committees but not to ASC committees. I am sure you will agree.

As we review the activities and responsibilities of the past 20 years it is easy to see that the committee system has been challenged time after time, both in peace and war, and the success of the operation of the program, in my opinion, can be given directly to the committeemen. It is my opinion also, that if it hadn't been for the judgment factor which committeemen have exercised in administering the programs these programs would have fallen of their own weight years ago.



Let's review the activities of the committee system over the past 20 years and see how they have met the challenge of effective administration during both war and peace. I have drawn a chart of the general price level from 1915 to the present time. The chart is based on the price level for the period 1947-1949 equaling 100. It is my contention that much of the activities and responsibilities of committees over the past 20 years have been dictated by war, either the actual wartime activities or the farm income situation which comes about as a result of war. I am sure all of you can remember the first World War when the county agricultural agent was called on to organize farm leadership in the all-out production of food even encouraging the production of home gardens and gardens by school children. This was before the committee system was established. I can well remember, and I am sure many of you can, how even parks were plowed up to grow food. Then after the first World War came a rapid decline in the price level and with it farm income. I remember very distinctly, the plight of Windsor County dairymen during the 20's. I became County Agricultural Agent in Windsor County in 1923, at that time the chaotic conditions in Europe were adversely affecting our exports of grain, especially feed, and we saw huge surpluses of wheat starting to pile up in the wheat-growing sections of this country. Conditions were so desperate that farm leaders in the West, especially in the grain-growing sections, called upon the government for some assistance in correcting the problem. At that time you will remember that the McNary-Haughen Bill, designed to stabilize prices of grain, was twice passed by Congress, and I am sorry to say, was vetoed by none other than our fellow Vermonter, Calvin Coolidge. During the discussion of the McNary-Haughen legislation, I remember very distinctly one New England United States Senator who referred to the farm leadership in the West as sons of wild jackasses. Of course, he didn't think that one through very well, because actually these farm leaders were the sons of people who had migrated to the West, some of them from his own State. Conditions were so bad during the late 20's that farm bankruptcies were at a peak. As you will remember, the McNary-Haughen Bill was followed by the creation of the Farm Board. This Farm Board was given a \$500 million dollar appropriation which in those days was considered a staggering sum. They were given the authority to deal in grain futures in order to stabilize prices and to undertake other market operations. They also promoted the organization of cooperatives to market the grain. The Farm Board did not have the authority to control production and you will remember that after a few years with huge supplies they had accumulated the Farm Board gave up as a failure. I won't say it was a failure because I believe that we learned something from that operation. We learned that farmers nationally would have to have some means of controlling production in order to prevent the piling up of huge surpluses that would have a depressing effect on prices.

The economic status of farmers throughout the country, I believe, was a definite factor in the crash of prices in 1929 and the severe depression which followed. You will remember that in 1933, Congress passed emergency farm legislation, as it was then called, entitled, "The Triple A" or "The Agricultural Adjustment Act." This Act was designed to give the Secretary of Agriculture authority to assist farmers to

control production in line with market demands. You will remember in Vermont one of the activities which county agents had was to administer the corn-hog legislation. Of course, it wasn't written to meet Vermont conditions and yet many hog growers in the State had contracts. When the processing tax, by which the Triple A Act was financed, was declared unconstitutional the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act was passed to carry on most of the programs. This Act was passed in 1936 and provided, among other programs, for the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Act also provided for assisting farmers to adjust their production in line with demand and in 1938 an amendment to the original Act provided for marketing quotas and for marketing orders and purchase agreements with other price support features. During the years of the early 40's, the second World War, you will remember that the control features of the program were forgotten and the challenge to committeemen was to help increase production to meet wartime demands. You will remember that victory gardens were promoted and committees were given the responsibility for rationing short supplies and performing other wartime duties. I am sure that they met the challenge then and their contribution to the wartime effort stands as a tribute to their successful operations.

In the Korean War the wartime production still prevailed and huge surpluses of grains, both corn and wheat, tobacco and cotton have been taken over by the government under the price support programs. Nationally, the challenge to committeemen is to administer the adjustment program in such a way that they will meet with success in reducing acreages and total production. This aspect of the program is not of as much applicability to Vermont as the Agricultural Conservation Program. However, it seems to me that Vermont committeemen have an interest in the National problems as they affect our agricultural economy.

As we review past activities which have challenged the committee system, I think that we can agree that the impact of the programs administered by committeemen have been to:

1. Promote better land use.
2. Increase the efficiency of production.
3. Provide a committee system which promotes the development of agricultural leadership.

In order to effectively and efficiently administer programs the committeemen from the State committee to the community committee must thoroughly know the program and it seems to me this is one of the responsibilities and challenges of the committee system. Not only must they know the program themselves, but every effort must be made to advise farmers of the program provisions in order that they may apply the program to their farm operations. Not only do we have a responsibility of letting farmers know about the programs but it seems to me that every State has the responsibility of a public relations program through which they advise the public, I mean the nonfarm public, people living



off the farms, of the results of the program which they help to finance. As I have said the National agricultural programs have increased efficiency of production and this efficiency in the long run has been of benefit to consumers as well as some farmers. In the past I think too much of our publicity work, or informational work, has been directed to farm people. I have seen some very good examples of informing nonfarm public of the results of the ACP program for instance, and I am sure that the response was very good. Recently, in one State a local banker and the State Administrative Officer had a TV program in which the programs administered by the State ASC office were discussed in detail. The ACP program was discussed and the results were shown in such a way as to give the city dweller a much better understanding of the program for which he helps pay.

Another responsibility of the committee system, it seems to me, and it is the very distinct challenge, is to promote a healthy relationship between other agencies having responsibilities within the field of agriculture. I am not going to take any time to discuss the situation in Vermont, because you know as well as I do that the relationship between the agencies in the State is very healthy.

Recently, Dean Carrigan spoke at our Northeast Area Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland. The topic of Joe's paper was "Pulling Together" and he certainly did a fine job in dealing with this important phase of public relations. You are aware of the excellent cooperation which the Extension Service in Vermont has given to our program. Much of it comes as a result of Joe's philosophy of cooperation.

The State Committee has a very definite challenge in making a fair allocation of the ACP program funds to counties. A formula used should not only recognize historical performance but also the need for improvement. I have worked with Al Heald and your State Committee and I am sure that they are doing their best to meet this challenge. The county committee has the biggest problem, it seems to me, in giving approvals for the performance of practices when their funds will only about half cover the requests of farmers. I have talked with many county committeemen who believe that the economic status of farmers should be considered when they are approving certain practices which fall within the ACP program. This may be the right philosophy but it certainly poses a very definite problem to a committee to make sure that the program may be administered fairly. After all, the millionaire pays taxes to support the program the same as the 10-cow farmer.

As I said before, Vermont has an excellent record of the effectiveness of the operation of the program and the efficiency of your operations. In looking over the statistical summary for the 1955 ACP program year, I find that Vermont ranked second in the country with percentage of farms participating in the ACP program. Vermont had 57 percent of farms participating in the ACP, whereas North Dakota had 61 percent. Vermont also ranked high in the percentage of farmland, cropland and pastureland in the program. These figures support the statement that you committeemen are meeting the challenge in getting the program out to farmers.

I am sure you will agree that one of our challenges is to appraise our operations in order that we may discover the weaknesses and plan to correct them. The administrative conferences which are held each year when the State Committeemen visit county offices and discuss the operations with the county office manager and county committees are a means of checking our operations in order that we may meet the challenge of efficiency. There is under discussion a plan whereby effective operation of county ASC offices will be recognized. This plan provides that county office operations will be appraised each year by the fieldmen and the county given the best standing in the State will be recognized. This county may also enter into competition with other counties in the area and finally one county will be selected to receive the National Award. This method of recognition may not be adopted because it will be rather difficult to administer due to the wide variation between counties. However, I'm sure some system will be approved to provide recognition of outstanding county office operation. You have had such a plan in operation in Vermont for some years.

One of the most important responsibilities of the committee system is to serve as liaison between the farmer and Uncle Sam. This responsibility, of course, falls directly on the community committeemen and because of the importance of this function, it behooves us to give the community committeemen up-to-date information on programs and the agricultural situation so that they may perform this function effectively. In Vermont, community committeemen for years have made contact with farmers on the Agricultural Conservation Program and I pay tribute to the excellent job which they have done.

Prior to 1933 the relationship of Uncle Sam to the farmer was rather remote but today with the Soil Bank contacts Uncle Sam in fact is a partner in the operation of the land entered in the Soil Bank program. In other words, the farmer agrees to use this land in a certain manner for which he is paid a rental and if he does not live up to the contract there is a possibility that he will be called into court <sup>and fined</sup> for violating his agreement. I am sure that you can all see why it is necessary that community committeemen thoroughly understand such a program so that they can be in a position to help explain the details to their neighbors. Another important function of the community committeeman in serving in his capacity as liaison between the farmer and the government is to relay reactions and attitudes of the participants through channels, the county committee, the State committee to the Washington office. Many suggestions have been made through these channels to improve not only the programs themselves, but also the administrative procedures.

In closing I would like to say that I believe we can express the challenge to committeemen in a very few words, that is, to carry on the successful administration of the task and to make it better today and in the future.

Again I want to say that it has been a pleasure to be with you and I wish you success in your activities in future years. I don't want to be in the position of a young preacher who, after preaching for three-quarters of an hour or so, was aware that the congregation was becoming uneasy. He noticed several shifting around in their seats and it was

apparent that they were not paying too strict attention. So he figured that he would shift the responsibility a little and get some of the congregation participating in the service. So he asked the good sister in the front row, "How do you feel after listening to my sermon?" She was rather surprised, of course, and did not have time to give a very considered reply. However, she said, "Reverend, your words of hope have filled me to overflowing." The preacher then turned to a young boy near her and said, "Well, how do you feel, my good boy?" The boy blurted out, "Well, I've got a belly full too."

You have been very patient but maybe I shouldn't run the risk of asking you how you feel about what I've said. Thank you for your attention.





ASC State Conference  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 11-12, 1957

Program Planning Recommendations - 1958 Agricultural Conservation Program

The committee on program planning submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the full conference. For convenience, these recommendations are listed as nearly as possible in the order in which they were taken up at the county meetings.

Background Statement

These recommendations took into consideration the National situation as it affects agriculture and the status of the Conservation Reserve Program as it is today in Vermont. The point is made that it is apparent from our experience to date the conservation reserve part of the Soil Bank is not adapted to very many Vermont farms and therefore will not take over much of the conservation reserve job. It is further pointed out that, although Nationally a lot of money will be spent on the Conservation Reserve Program, it appears that not much of it will come into our State.

With these things in mind, a series of meetings were held in every Vermont county at which time our community committeemen, our county committeemen and our technical people studied all the problems and made recommendations as to the kind of a program they would like for Vermont. The delegates at this conference had before them the county recommendations and the technical group recommendations and gave full consideration to the respective recommendations.

Importance of Minerals to our Vermont Program

The group reaffirmed previous positions that a program to be of benefit in Vermont, in fact in New England, must take into consideration the establishment of sod ground. In our area of grassland farming, the use of minerals is a must in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Program Policies

The group discussed in detail the seven principles which were contained in the 1957 practice handbook. It was pointed out that some counties were in disagreement with the wording of the principles. It was further pointed out in the discussion that, because of the fact that Vermont does not have adequate funds to go around, some kind of restricting principles or rules must be applied. With this in mind, after much discussion the group went on record as favoring the continuation of the principles as written for at least another year.

Practice Recommendations

We have the following recommendations in connection with specific practices. References in connection with these practices will be to the practices offered to our State in 1957 unless otherwise specified.

Practice No. 1 - Lime

The practice should be continued as in 1957. The cost-share rate should remain on a 50-50 basis.

Practices Nos. 2 and 3

The group discussed the use of minerals in connection with new seeding and improvement of hay or pastures. They agreed that these two practices should be continued as is with the same cost-share rate as in 1957 which was a 50-50 basis.

Practice No. 4 - Fencing

It was agreed that the cost-share rate should be set up so that it is understood that woven wire fence could be substituted for a 2- or 3-strand barbed wire fence. Otherwise, the practice should remain as it was in 1957 and the cost-share should be the same.

Practice No. 5 - Planting Trees

The group agreed that the practice should be continued as in 1957. Some counties had recommended that additional species be added, but it was pointed out that the practice as now written allows these additional species where the county forester recommends them.

The group agreed that the cost-share rate should remain as in 1957, but that the following should be added: "Cost may include trees, planting and preparation of the site as by plowing furrows or brush removal by any suitable means."

Several counties recommended restrictive rates on this practice. Again it was pointed out that any county wanting to limit the rate lower than the State handbook has that privilege.

Practice No. 6 - Woodland Improvement

It was agreed that the practice should be continued as in 1957.

A recommendation by one county on changed wording was considered. It was pointed out, however, that any county that wanted to would be permitted to reword the practice, clarify it or to further restrict it. This is permitted provided that the practice as offered in the county is within the framework of the State practice.

On cost-share rates, the group agreed to continue them as in 1957.

Practices Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18

Several counties recommended that there be restrictive cost-sharing rates on these practices. The State group agreed that the practices should be offered in the State handbook as they were in 1957 with the same cost-share rate, pointing out that any county that wants to may place a lower rate in their county handbook.

Practice No. 19 - Special Conservation Practices

The group agreed that this provision should be continued in the State handbook.

Some counties had indicated an interest in the controlling of competitive shrubs practice and in a green manure<sup>or</sup> cover crop practice. The State group

felt that these practices should not be offered in the State handbook, but that counties should be given the opportunity to write them up individually under the Special Conservation Practice Provision of the handbook.

#### Practice No. 20- County Conservation Practices

The State group agreed that this provision should be continued.

#### Practice No. 20(a) - Super with Manure

The State group agreed that this practice should be continued and that the State handbook should set up a 50-50 cost-share rate pointing out again that any county desiring to do so could lower the Government cost-share.

#### Practice No. 20(b) - Farm Roads

It was agreed that any county that felt this practice desirable should submit their recommendations to the State Committee and that they would be considered on an individual basis under the County Conservation Practice Provision.

#### Additional Practices

The recommendation of one county for a Christmas tree improvement practice was discussed. The group recommended that this county should be permitted to write the practice up under the County Conservation Practice Provision and that it would be up to the State Committee as to whether or not approval could be given.

#### Practice No. 21 - New Conservation Problems

The State group agreed that this provision should be continued.

#### Allocation of Program Funds to Counties

The group discussed the method to be used in allocating program funds from the State level to the county level. It was pointed out that such things as acres of forestry practices needed or drainage practices needed might be considered in the formula. After discussion, the group recommended that the formula used in 1957 be continued.

#### Allocation of Program Funds to States

It was pointed out that in the past few years some states have not used their full allocation of ACP program funds. Based on this, the group recommended that provisions be made at the National level to permit the reallocation of program funds not needed by one state to another state. This provision it was pointed out would permit the full appropriation of ACP funds to be used each year in those states needing them. We have in Vermont been in a position to use our program funds every year and could in many years use additional funds.

We recommend that an additional appropriation be made for ACP forestry practices and allocated to the states.



## Conservation Materials and Services

The group agreed that we should continue to furnish conservation materials and services under contract in 1958 as we did in 1957, but they pointed out that the individual types of materials and services to be furnished in a county should be left up to the determination of that county.

The group agreed that the extent of the use of purchase orders should be left up to the individual county.

In connection with cash collections, the following recommendations were made: For lime, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

For superphosphate, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

For mixed fertilizer, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

## Soil Bank and ACP

The group pointed out that the funds available for the Conservation Reserve Program were at present far more than needed whereas the funds for ACP were less than needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Winslow, Sr.  
For the Program Planning Committee

Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Chairman  
Glenn Webster, Vice Chairman  
Almon F. Heald, Secretary

## Other Members of the Program Planning Committee

Wayne Fuller, Addison County  
E. W. Mattison, Bennington County  
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County  
Philip Grime, Caledonia County Agent  
Raymond Rowley, Chittenden County  
C. E. Wright, Essex County  
Roland Gervais, Franklin County  
Ralph C. McWilliams, Franklin County Agent  
Alan Kinney, Grand Isle County  
Arthur Stanchiff, Lamoille County  
Gordon V. Starr, Orange County Agent  
Robert Kimbom, Orleans County  
Roy Burroughs, Rutland County  
D. Drew Bisbee, Washington County  
Gordon E. Butler, Washington County Agent  
Robert Gaines, Windham County  
Raymond Farrar, Windsor County



Others contributing to the discussion included:

Roland Crumpler, Director, Conservation Programs Division, ACPS  
Henry Balivet, Assistant to Senator Flanders  
Byram Leonard, New York State Administrative Officer  
A. W. Gottlieb, State Forester, Vermont Forest Service  
L. J. Peet, State Soil Conservationist  
Ed Wright, State Committee Alumnus  
Hugh E. Evans, State Committee Alumnus

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.



ASC State Conference  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 11-12, 1957

Report of the Soil Bank Committee

The committee confined its discussion to the conservation reserve part of the soil bank since only one farm in the State is eligible to participate in the acreage reserve.

The county report of March 28, 1957 on the 1956-1957 conservation reserve was reviewed. The statistics for Vermont were compared with those for the rest of New England, and the United States. The figures show very low participation in the CRP. This would indicate that some changes in the provisions of the conservation reserve were needed to attract larger participation.

The committee developed the following recommendations with this in mind. We present these for consideration by the full conference and move that they be adopted.

Eligible Land

It is recommended:

1. That presently used open pastureland be made eligible for conservation reserve provided it is planted to trees and/or used as a pond site.
2. That improved pasture be made eligible for the conservation reserve.

Farm Soil Bank Base

The committee had no recommendations for changes in connection with the soil bank base.

Annual Rental Payments

It is recommended:

1. That the non-diversion rate be increased to \$5.00 per acre.
2. That, where the entire farm is placed in the reserve, the rental rate be flexible with a maximum of \$10.00 per acre and a minimum of \$5.00 per acre at the discretion of the county committee.

Contract Periods

The committee had no recommendations for change.

Practices and Practice Payments

The committee had no recommendations for change.

Other Recommendations for Changes

The committee recommends that it be made permissible for unused conservation reserve funds to be transferred to ACP.

Respectfully submitted:

B. Frank Myott  
For the Soil Bank Committee

B. Frank Myott, Chairman  
F. Milo Leighton, Vice Chairman  
Charles B. Doane, Secretary

Other Members of the Soil Bank Committee

Sedgewick Preston, Addison County  
\*John Stephenson, Asst. County Agent, Addison County  
Ball Lyons, Bennington County  
Donald Larocque, Caledonia County  
G. N. Baldwin, Chittenden County  
Stewart Gibson, Asst. County Agent, Chittenden County  
Elden Hartshorn, Essex County  
Stuart Newton, Franklin County  
Jay Haylett, Grand Isle County  
Robert White, Grand Isle County Agent  
Ray Perkins, Lamoille County  
Henry Dagesse, Orleans County  
Roger Whitcomb, Orleans County Agent  
George Ridlon, Rutland County  
W. J. Bisson, Washington County  
Arthur Bensenhaver, Windham County  
\*Ray Pestle, Windham County Agent  
Matthew Watson, Windsor County

\* Not present

Others contributing to the discussion included:

Thomas Hamilton, Deputy Director, Conservation Reserve,  
Soil Bank Division, CSS  
Floyd Campbell, Soil Conservation Service  
Dwight Eddy, Extension Service  
Harris W. Soule, Northeast Area Director, CSS  
Richard Cobb, U. S. Employment Service  
Thurston Adams, Extension Service  
Leland Beebe, Vermont State Farm Bureau  
Byram Leonard, New York State Administrative Officer  
William F. Sinclair, State Committee Alumnus  
Hugh E. Evans, State Committee Alumnus

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.



ASC STATE CONFERENCE  
Burlington, Vermont  
April 11 - 12, 1957

Report of Committee on Administrative Problems

1. Elections

- a. The present regulations were discussed and it was generally agreed that they were satisfactory. However, the use of county and community election boards was discussed at length. Some felt that the election boards were not active and did a poor job. It was unanimously recommended that the previous system which allowed the use of community committeemen in conducting election meetings was preferable to the present plan of election boards. The group favored making use of election boards optional with each State Committee.
- b. The present methods for holding elections, namely, by meetings, mail, and at polling places, were considered satisfactory and it was recommended that each county committee use the method best adapted to his county.
- c. The time for holding elections was discussed and it was generally recommended that early elections would be more satisfactory than elections held late in the year. The time of holding elections should be left optional with each county committee.
- d. The time when elected committeemen should take office was discussed. The present regulations state that elected committeemen take office the first of the following month. The group recommended a change which would allow early elections and yet have elected committeemen take office the first of the new calendar year.
- e. In discussing methods to improve participation at election meetings it was recommended that using community committeemen instead of election boards would result in larger attendance. Other important features were having good speakers and serving light refreshments.
- f. The group felt that well-planned meetings and holding elections early would result in better attendance.

2. County Committee Meetings

- a. The value of holding county committee meetings on regular dates was discussed. Some counties are now holding meetings on regular dates and other counties are not. After discussing this point it was finally recommended to leave it optional with each county as to whether or not the meetings would be held on regular dates.

- b. The matter of having an agenda for county committee meetings prior to the meeting was recognized as important. After discussion it was recommended that an agenda be prepared and sent to each member of the county committee, county agent, and fieldman prior to the meeting and that a copy of the minutes of the last meeting should be sent at this time if such minutes had not previously been sent out immediately following the meeting.
- c. The question of whether or not community committeemen and others should be invited to county committee meetings was debated. It was finally recommended that community committeemen should be invited to county committee meetings whenever it was deemed advisable.
- d. Minutes for county committee meetings were discussed. It was generally agreed that the minutes as now prepared were complete, accurate, and generally prepared on time.
- e. The importance of getting to county committee meetings on time was recognized.

### 3. Supervision of County Office Personnel

- a. The problem of determining county policies was discussed. It was recommended that these policies should be set up by the county committee. It was agreed that this in general is the procedure in most counties.
- b. It was agreed that in general office managers are adhering to policies as set up.

### 4. Supervision of Field Work

- a. Supervision of field work<sup>by county committeemen</sup> was discussed in some detail and it was recommended that it was desirable that counties be divided into areas of responsibility.
- b. It was recommended that each county committeeman be responsible for supervising the work of community committeemen, consignees, and soil samplers, in his respective area.
- c. The problem of getting county committeemen to start supervision earlier in sign-up was discussed in some detail. At the present time, 7 counties report that they do check committeemen soon after sign-up. It was recommended that county committeemen should work with all new committeemen as well as some of the old committeemen while they are actively engaged in checking performance and doing sign-up work. Spot-check report work should be completed before checking performance is done.

## 5. Training Schools

The group agreed that the number of days to be devoted to training school in a county should be optional with the county committee. They also recommended that a period be set aside during the training school when each committeeman would have time to sign up his neighbor and after the sign-up forms had been completed, they would be given to the office manager for correction. These corrections should be made known before the end of the training school, if possible.

The group unanimously favored holding a Statewide meeting of county committeemen and office managers prior to training schools for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the instructions and details.

## 6. Program Operations

- a. The group recommended that it should be left optional with each committee as to whether or not sign-up should be made by farm-to-farm visits or at community meetings.

It should be left optional with county committees as to the final date for enrolling in the program.

- b. It was recommended that counties use limitations on program funds and that the amount of such limitations be optional with each committee.
- c. The group agreed that relations with other agencies were generally good. There was need in some counties for more prompt attention by technicians on prior approval work.
- d. The question as to changes that might be made to increase the level of participation was discussed and the following suggestions were made: That where possible forms be simplified and that the letter sent to the farmers with Form 245 be worded so as to be more easily understood by the farmer.
- e. The matter of minimum requirements for cost-sharing was reviewed and it was agreed that the requirements used in 1957 were satisfactory.
- f. The group discussed cash collection dates for furnished material and it was recommended that each county committee determine its own dates.
- g. Purchase orders were discussed and it was agreed that present regulations and instructions were satisfactory and reasonably well understood. It was also recommended that county committees supervise purchase orders more closely.



## 7. Keeping Informed

The question of how can we do a better job of keeping our committeemen informed was discussed. The following recommendations were made:

- a. County offices should issue as frequently as practicable newsletters or news sheets to community committeemen.
- b. The State Office newsletters that have been issued in the past were well received by community committeemen and should be continued.
- c. Reference cards which have been furnished to county committeemen from time to time were much appreciated and should be continued.
- d. Informational meetings that have been held in the past were reviewed and the group felt that such meetings should be continued in the future where possible.

## 8. Related Activities

Public Relations -- The problem of keeping the public informed of current programs was reviewed. It was agreed that newspaper releases and radio were the best media and that office managers and county committeemen should furnish the county agent with current information on operations and progress of the program so that this material could be used in newspaper and radio releases.

## 9. Cooperation with Other Agencies

It was recommended that county committees invite other agencies to attend county committee meetings, planning meetings, and training schools in order that the other agencies might know and understand our program more thoroughly. It was also recommended that county committeemen attend meetings of other groups as frequently as possible.

Respectfully submitted:

Edson E. Gifford, Chairman  
For the Administrative Problems Committee

Edson E. Gifford, Chairman  
Howard Foster, Vice Chairman  
Edward N. Blondin, Secretary



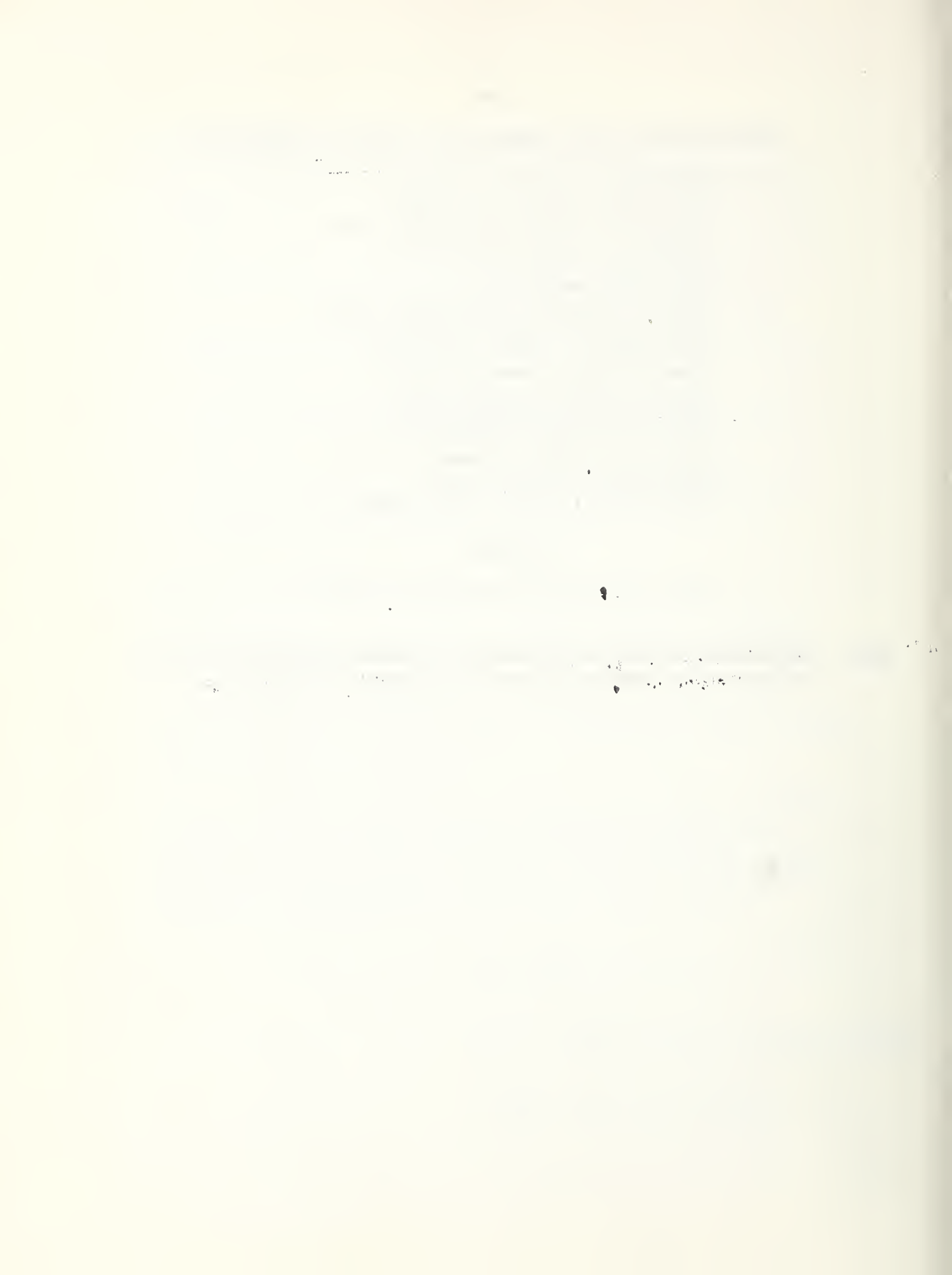
Other Members of the Administrative Problems Committee

Howard Foster, Addison County  
Clyde Bryant, Bennington County  
Clarence Burrington, Caledonia County  
Ray Collins, Chittenden County  
Ray French, Essex County  
Floyd Weld, Franklin County  
Charles Waddington, Grand Isle County  
Howard Kittell, Lamoille County  
Silas Jewett, Lamoille County Agent  
Walter Wheatley, Orange County  
Reginald LeBlanc, Orleans County  
James Brayton, Rutland County  
Everett Walbridge, Washington County  
Myron Allen, Windham County  
Wesley Young, Windsor County  
William Stone, Windsor County Agent

Visitors

Hugh E. Evans, State Committee Alumnus

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.



## OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### State Committee Nominees

For many years it has been a State policy to ask the county committeemen at the conference to vote for three farmers as nominees for the next vacancy on the State Committee. The names of these nominees are listed below, in alphabetical order, without regard to the number of votes each received:

Gaylord N. Baldwin, Chittenden County  
Clyde H. Bryant, Bennington County  
Howard A. Foster, Addison County

### Conference Banquet

Our guest speaker this year was Clarence L. Miller, Associate Administrator, Commodity Stabilization Service, USDA, who presented an interesting discussion of the problems facing American agriculture at the present time.

The toastmaster at this banquet was Hugh E. Evans, who retired as Chairman of the State ASC Committee last December. Mr. Evans fulfilled his duties competently and well.

Others at the head table included:

Lieutenant Governor Robert T. Stafford and Mrs. Stafford  
H. W. Soule, Director, Northeast Area, CSS, and Mrs. Soule  
Elmer Towne, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mrs. Towne  
Robert P. Davison, Acting Director of Extension  
Harold Arthur, Master, Vermont State Grange  
Mrs. Hugh E. Evans  
B. Frank Myott, Chairman, State ASC Committee, and Mrs. Myott  
Charles L. Winslow, Sr., State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Winslow  
Edson E. Gifford, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Gifford

Brief remarks were made by Lieutenant Governor Stafford who expressed the Governor's regrets at being unable to attend and reaffirmed the State Government's interest in conservation work in Vermont.

The toastmaster read a letter from Dean J. E. Carrigan who was unable to be present because of a conflict. This letter expressed Dean Carrigan's continued interest in the work of the ASC organization and his regret at no longer being a member of the State Committee because of his retirement as Director of Extension.

Entertainment was provided by "The Barrettes," a girl quartet from Franklin County, who presented several selections. This group was obtained through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Myott.

There were 125 at the banquet this year, which was served buffet style for the first time and featured a 92-lb. roast of beef. The buffet table was very attractive with its centerpiece of flowers and an ice sculpture of the initials "ASC."

### State Committee Alumni

A special table at the banquet was reserved for State Committee alumni and their wives. The following were present this year:

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Sinclair, Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. George D. Bailey, Rochester  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Beebe, Manchester  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray R. Allen, South Hero  
Mr. Edward K. Wright, Westminster

The toastmaster expressed the regret of the committeemen in Vermont at the recent passing of Thomas F. Macauley, a former State Committeeman, and spoke a few words of appreciation for the outstanding service he had given to our program and to agriculture in general.

### Visitors from Other State ASC Offices

We were pleased that representatives from neighboring State Offices could be with us for the conference. These included Normand Townsend, State Committeeman from New Hampshire and Byram Leonard, State Administrative Officer from New York.

### State Office Employee Honored

One of the highlights of this year's conference banquet was the tribute paid to E. N. Blondin, who has announced his retirement effective this July. In outlining the contributions Ted Blondin has made to agriculture, Administrative Officer Heald commented that Ted had been a county agent in Canada, had served four years as county agent in Rutland County, Vermont, and had worked on the Agricultural Conservation Program since 1936.

Mr. Heald pointed out that Ted has made a real contribution toward a better understanding of the program by the French-speaking farmers and has also been a leader in getting Vermont interested in the Canadian Farm Show and has done much to cement relations between Canadian and Vermont groups.

Mr. Heald asked the group to stand and give Ted and Mrs. Blondin, who has been a wonderful backer, a big hand in tribute. Immediately after this each county committee chairman came forward and presented Ted with a package of new bills from his county. Mr. Heald then added a similar package from the State Committee and State Office personnel and announced that the total purse amounted to \$250. He expressed the good wishes of the group that Ted and Mrs. Blondin may enjoy his retirement.

Mr. Blondin, in a few well-chosen words, thanked the group for their congratulations and good wishes, and especially for the gift which he indicated came as a complete surprise.



### Certificates Awarded

B. Frank Myott, Chairman of the State Committee, asked R. P. Davison, Acting Director of Extension, to accept on behalf of Dean J. E. Carrigan, a certificate in recognition of Dean Carrigan's service on the State Committee since the beginning of the program in 1936.

Mr. Myott also presented a certificate and scrapbook to Hugh E. Evans, who retired last December as Chairman of the State Committee, in recognition of his years of service to the organization.

### Outstanding Performance Award

During the afternoon session on the second day of the conference, H. W. Soule, Northeast Area Director, announced that Administrative Officer Heald had been given an outstanding rating by the State Committee, and stated that such a rating is a real honor as they are not easily come by.

Mr. Soule congratulated Mr. Heald and presented him with a Certificate of Merit and a cash award.

### TV Coverage

During both days of the conference a photographer and a local news commentator took pictures and interviewed speakers and guests. These pictures with appropriate comments were shown over WCAX-TV each day of the conference as part of the day's local news.

### Exhibits

In the Roof Garden where the general sessions of the conference were held were displayed many charts and pictures pertaining to the work of the ASC committeemen in Vermont. These exhibits were viewed with interest by those attending the conference, and in several instances served as background material for the conference speakers.

### Photography

Once again we are indebted to William Stone, County Agent from Windsor County, for his courtesy and cooperation in taking pictures of the various events. His excellent photographic work makes possible a well-rounded conference record.

### Special Session for County Office Managers

A special session for county office managers was held at the State Office Building on the first afternoon of the conference. Representatives of the State Office staff were present to discuss various phases of the work, and time was allowed for questions and discussion of each topic. Comments from the office managers indicate that this meeting was a success.

A separate report of this session will be issued to county office managers for their reference.

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